

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 14-27 have been canceled in favor of new claims 28-41. The new claims have been drafted to avoid the issue underlying the 35 USC 112, second paragraph, rejection applied to claim 23. Support for the subject matter of new claims 28-41 is provided for example in the original claims.

Claims 14-22 and 24-27 were rejected, under 35 USC §102(e), as being anticipated by Katsume et al. (US 2005/0122429). Claim 23 was rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Katsume in view of Brown (US 7,366,461). To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to new claims 28-41, the Applicants respectfully traverse based on the points set forth below.

Claim 28 recites features of canceled claim 14 and defines a digital broadcast receiving apparatus that: (1) stores channel lists in association with respective switching times, (2) acquires information of the current time, and (3) selects a stored channel list whose associated switching time corresponds to the acquired current time. The claimed subject matter supports receiving a digital broadcast without the need for a separate receiver to perform a channel search as a receiving apparatus ranges through different broadcast areas, thereby reducing the size and power consumption of the receiving apparatus (see specification page 4, line 12, through page 5, line 15). (References herein to the specification and drawings are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention to the referenced embodiments.)

It is noted that Katsume does not disclose selecting a stored channel list based on a correspondence between an acquired current time and a switching time associated with the channel list. Instead, Katsume discloses, in Figs. 3 and 4, selecting a stored broadcast frequency associated with a television broadcast region (see S4-S6 of Fig. 3, S25-S27 of Fig. 4, and paragraph [0041], lines 5-11). Additionally, Katsume discloses comparing current base station information with such information when a television program was last received so as to determine whether a receiving apparatus is communicating with the same base station and, accordingly, in the same television broadcast region as before (see paragraph [0045], line 14, through paragraph [0046], line 7).

Katsume's disclosure of determining whether a television broadcast region has changed since last receiving a broadcast and selecting a stored broadcast frequency associated with a current broadcast region is not identical to, or even similar to, the Applicants' claimed subject matter of selecting a stored channel list based on a correspondence between an acquired current time and a switching time associated with the channel list.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Katsume does not anticipate the subject matter defined by claim 28. Therefore, allowance of claim 28 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

To promote a better understanding of the patentable distinctions of the present claimed invention over the teachings of the applied references, the Applicants provide the following further remarks.

Claim 28 recites using a channel list which is associated with the current time and a switching time stored in a storage section as a currently usable channel list. By this subject

matter, even when a user moves beyond a broadcast area, the claimed invention provides a distinct advantage of allowing the user, upon leaving the broadcast area, to switch to the channel list of the broadcast area to which the user moves by associating in advance the times the broadcast area changes due to user movement with channel lists, so that the user is able to select channels according to the list that is suitable in the destination.

It is noted that Katsume discloses that a communication terminal stores record information on base station areas into which it has moved in the past, TV broadcasting receivable areas associated with these base stations, TV broadcasting frequencies, signal strengths of TV broadcasting, and the like, and the record information includes the date and time at which the record information is updated. Katsume and the Applicants' claimed invention share in common some subject matter of finding the current time and storing channel lists in association with times. More specifically, Katsume discloses a technique of storing record information (i.e., channel lists) in association with dates and times this record information is updated. This subject matter of Katsume, however, bears no relationship to the Applicants' claimed subject matter of storing the times to switch channel lists in association with the channel lists.

By contrast to Katsume, the Applicants' claimed invention acquires the current time and selects a channel list having an associated switching time that corresponds to the acquired current time.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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